

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraphs [0030] and [0031] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0030] Fig. 6 ~~Alignment~~ shows an alignment of deduced amino acid sequence of the full length rice cDNA clone GenBank ID: D49050 (SEQ ID NO:13) with 10 different low molecular weight phospholipase A₂ from animal tissues. Conserved amino acid sequences are boxed. Spaces introduced to optimize alignment are indicated by a dash. The different sequences represent phospholipase A₂ from the following species:

- D00035: *Canis sp.* (SEQ ID NO:1)
- D10070: *Trimeresurus flavoliridis* (SEQ ID NO:2)
- M21054: *Homo sapiens* (SEQ ID NO:3)
- X12605: *Notechis scutatus scutatus* (SEQ ID NO:4)
- X53406: *Bungarus multicinctus* (SEQ ID NO:5)
- X53471: *Vipera ammodytes* (SEQ ID NO:6)
- X76289: *Bothrops jararacussu* (SEQ ID NO:7)
- Y00120: *Bostaurus* (SEQ ID NO:8)
- Y00377: *Laticauda laticaudata* (SEQ ID NO:9)

[0031] Fig. 7 ~~Alignment~~ shows an alignment of the N-terminal sequence (SEQ ID NO:10) of the purified soluble PLA₂ from elm seeds with deduced amino acid sequences ~~(SEQ ID NOs:11-13)~~ from three EST-clones from rice green shoots, ~~including the~~ cDNA clones D47724 (SEQ ID NO:11), D47653 (SEQ ID NO:12) and D49050 (residues 1-76 of SEQ ID NO:13) fully sequenced by the inventors. The EST-sequences are denoted by

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their GenBank accession number. Conserved amino acid positions between the elm and rice proteins as well as the regions with homology to the Ca^{2+} -binding and the active site in animal low molecular weight PLA₂'s are boxed. A fourth rice clone (GenBank ID: D47320) with high homology to the three above was found in the EST database, but excluded from the alignment due to lower quality of the DNA sequence.